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Enzootic Jaundice (Yellows) in Dogs.

By C. C. OKELL and T. DALLING, Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories, Beckenham, Kent;
and L. P. PUGH, Sevenoaks.

We have recently had the opportunity of investigating infectious jaundice in dogs. The cases so far have come from an area in each of three counties, Kent, Herts, and Surrey. The condition is similar to Weil's disease in human beings, the course and *post-mortem* appearance being alike. Careful search was made for piroplasms, but none were found in any of the animals. We have found a leptospira present in various tissues of several affected dogs and in rats found in close association with the infected kennels. This leptospira when injected into guinea-pigs and dogs, either as culture or a liver emulsion from naturally infected dogs, has produced the disease with typical symptoms and *post-mortem* appearances. Fortunately we had at our disposal supplies of anti-leptospira serum which one of us (C. C. O.) had made by immunising horses with rat leptospira obtained from Scottish mines in which cases of human jaundice (Weil's disease) had occurred. If guinea-pigs be protected with this serum they withstand doses of culture or infected tissue fatal to unprotected guinea-pigs. The serum of dogs which have recovered from the disease appears to protect guinea-pigs against an otherwise fatal dose of culture or infected tissue. Dogs infected with the rat strain of leptospira develop a clinical and *post-mortem* picture indistinguishable from that of the natural disease.

The anti-leptospira serum has been used prophylactically and therapeutically. Few results are yet available, but all seem to be favourable. In one infected kennel seven dogs were given serum, none developed the disease; of five not given serum, two have died of the disease. A full account of the investigation will be published when the work has further advanced. We believe the disease is widespread in the country, but no reliable data are available. We would be very grateful to veterinary surgeons for notes of any cases observed by them. We do not at present know of any human cases of the disease in association with these canine outbreaks, but enquiries are being made.

Conclusions.—(1) Enzootic jaundice (yellows) in dogs has been investigated. The disease is apparently caused by leptospira icterohæmorrhagiæ.

(2) Anti-leptospira serum apparently protects against the disease. It has been tried curatively in a few cases with promising results.

(3) As leptospira icterohæmorrhagiæ is spread by rats, energetic anti-rat measures are advisable in all infected kennels.

